

**Town of Chelsea
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2011**

Regular Meeting:

Call to order:

Chairperson Linda Leotsakos called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Selectboard members present: Linda Leotsakos, Michael Pushard and Benjamin Smith. Town Manager Scott Tilton was present along with 8 SVRSU12 Board Members, Superintendent Greg Potter, Old Hallowell Day Committee Chairperson Jane Orbeton, and about 20 residents and members of the public.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve Payroll Warrant # 23 in the amount of \$5,708.80.
 - B. Approve Accounts Payable Warrant # 24 in the amount of \$209,536.96.
 - C. Approve Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2011.*
 - D. Approve Board of Assessors Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2011.
- A motion was made by Ben Smith that was seconded by Mike Pushard to approve Consent Agenda items A, B, C as amended*, and D. Vote was unanimous.

Scheduled items: (Moved before Public Comment because Fire Chief Shawn Ramage was needed at Fire Department training.)

B. Old Business:

1. Shawn Ramage stated that there has been no progress with the repair and warranty issue with the Ford Motor Company regarding the fire truck purchased in 2005. He will try to call Deb Sanderson, Susan Collin's office, and perhaps Olympia Snowe's office for support resolving this issue. Shawn will meet with Scott Tilton to finalize a letter to Ford Motor Company.

Linda Leotsakos informed Shawn that she found a significant increase in electricity usage at the Hallowell Road fire station when she reviewed the latest CMP billing information. It appears to begin in June 2011. The only change at the station has been adding a soda machine that the Coca-Cola Company donated. There is an ice machine running now, but has not caused a spike in the electric bills in the past. A Smart Meter was installed somewhere late spring – June. Shawn will find out the date of installation. He will arrange for CMP to come check the meter and have them test the electricity usage of the soda and ice machines while they are there.

Public Comment on Items not part of the Agenda: None.

Scheduled items:

A. New Business:

1. Linda Leotsakos introduced SVRSU12 Superintendent Greg Potter and thanked the SVRSU12 Board Members in the audience for attending this Selectboard meeting. Mr. Potter brought three (3) handouts; "I have a question.." for people to fill out and give to him to answer later if there was not enough time during the discussion; "Town of Chelsea-School Local Cost Data"; and "RSU12's Budgeted Values to Educate Chelsea's Students". Cost data from 2009 when Chelsea was a member of SU 132 and 2012 as a member of SVRSU#12 was reviewed and discussed. The values shown in the 2012 data column do not reflect Chelsea's additional school transportation costs or Chelsea's share of Adult Education. The additional money needed to fund the generator and increased footage in the cafeteria that was approved by Chelsea voters is shared between the towns in the RSU.

Scheduled items:

A. New Business:

1. **Continued:** There were questions about the recent vote in Wiscasset to investigate withdrawing from RSU12. The discontent in Wiscasset stems from many factors. One (1) is the continued dissatisfaction with the State's decision to require consolidation. Another is the decision by the SVRSU12 Board to change the school mascot in Wiscasset. Any town in SVRSU12 is able to petition to withdraw from the RSU after January 1, 2012. It requires a majority of voter approval to formulate a withdrawal plan. If approved, the next step is to take the withdrawal plan back to the town for a vote. To pass this plan, it must be approved by 2/3rds of the registered voters. Each RSU is no longer required to have a high school, but is required to have individual education contracts for every student grades 9 – 12.

Greg Potter feels that with the positive discussions about charter schools and individualized student education that 'school choice' will, at least for the time being, remain available to towns that have it in place. Our SVRSU12 plan protects 'school choice'.

It was also noted that if Wiscasset pulls out of SVRSU12 the remaining seven (7) towns would not be overburdened with the remaining education costs.

5. (Moved before New Business items 2. through 4. to allow Jane Orbeton to present her request earlier in the evening.)

Jane Orbeton, Chairperson of Old Hallowell Days Committee, came to ask for the use of Butternut Park in Chelsea for the Holidays in Old Hallowell Fireworks on December 10, 2011. The Holidays in Hallowell Committee will hire the necessary law enforcement as in the past and pay them directly. This group is a non-profit group and came to ask that a minimal fee be requested for use of the park. They have sufficient insurance for this event.

- A motion was made by Ben Smith that was seconded by Mike Pushard to graciously accept a donation of \$500.00 to the Town of Chelsea to be deposited in the Fire Protection Services Account and the committee hires the necessary sheriff department personnel and pay them directly. Vote was unanimous.

It was also noted that 2012 is the Town of Hallowell's 250th Birthday celebration and the fireworks display on July 21, 2012 will be larger and more elaborate (but will not last any longer than in the past). It is hoped that the Town of Chelsea will be a part of this celebration.

2. The Fiscal Year 2009 – 10 Town Financial Audit is complete and the full report will be available on the Town of Chelsea website (under Latest News). Scott Tilton highlighted a few of the areas of concern. The statement "*The Town currently has a deficit undesignated fund balance and will have to work to get to the point where it can maintain a sufficient undesignated fund balance to sustain government operations for a period of approximately two months. It will also have to work towards maintaining reserve accounts for future capital and program needs.*" does not mean that it is a negative number, but that it is less than the 2 months of expenditures that is normally carried in a town's fund balance. He is very concerned that line item 'Winter Roads' was over-expended by \$20,928 and line item 'Summer Roads' was over-expended by \$98,195.

Linda Leotsakos questioned that the letter dated June 15, 2011 in the Chelsea 2009 – 2010 Fiscal Year Audit is not the same letter dated June 15, 2011 in the 2011 Annual Town Report.

Scott Tilton will contact the auditor to set up a time to be available to answer the fiscal questions that the Selectboard members have.

Scheduled items:

A. New Business:

3. **Continued:** Scott Tilton received eight (8) pages of Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011 Town Trial Balance from the Auditor so far. The balance of \$55,492.12 was cushioned by carryover. It is not great, but it is a 'positive' number.

4. The Chelsea Heating Assistance Program is more thorough than the Chelsea Cares Program. There are income guidelines and a formal application form. There have been many requests for fuel assistance. Scott Tilton is not comfortable using the funds in the Chelsea Cares Program until the policy and application are approved. It was suggested to add a question to the application asking if the applicant has received any aid from any other agencies, such as the LIHEAP program, churches, etc. The applicants would also be required to certify that the assistance provided would be used by them. There is approximately \$3,200.00 in the fund. Donations are currently the only source of revenue for this fund. The Selectboard also needs to consider if they wish to ask Chelsea residents to set-aside money for this fund in next year's budget. This issue will be discussed further at the next Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Written Communication:

- A. October 24, 2011, Time Warner Cable sent a letter to the Town of Chelsea announcing rate increases. Basic cable will increase from \$19.99 to \$20.99 and Standard cable from \$69.99 to \$73.99.
- B. October 27, 2011, SVRSU#12 Finance Manager sent a letter to the Town of Chelsea stating that the Adult Education from 2010 – 2011 in the amount of 16,360.79 was not paid out of the 2010-11 Budget. The amount due for 2011-2012 in the amount of 17,001.00 was received 8-18-11.

Legal Issues: None.

Verbal Communication:

- A. Town Manager, Scott Tilton reported that 2,448 yards of sand have been delivered at a cost of \$20,783.52. There have been 129 tons of salt delivered at a cost of \$4,979.39. All but about 30 tons of the salt has been mixed with sand.

There has been a revision requested to Chelsea's Permit-by-Rule for the Windsor Rd wetlands and it is anticipated that the fee of \$17,301.00 will not be levied against the Town.

Voting on November 8, 2011 went well. Chelsea voters approved the establishment of a Charter Commission. There were 721 votes cast.

The Red Cross will be evaluating the Chelsea Elementary School for use as a Red Cross approved emergency shelter.

- B. The Road Advisory Committee met Saturday, November 5, 2011 and completed the road surveys. This information will be entered into the Road Management System software to prioritize the road work.
- C. School Department. No additional.

D. Board of Selectmen Comments and Reports.

Mike Pushard and Scott Tilton met with Steve McGee after the first snowstorm to review and correct any plowing / sanding issues that arose. Mike is happy with the job that was done, as this early storm made conditions more difficult.

If any concerns arise when Scott Tilton is not in the office, Mike Pushard has agreed to be the contact person for the Town of Chelsea residents (even after Town Office hours). A big thank you to Mike for doing this.

Ben Smith, Joseph Mills, and Ed Tobias (Safe Fireworks Committee) met and identified two (2) issues that need to be discussed. Fireworks sales and personal use of fireworks create different concerns. A moratorium on fireworks sales / use in Chelsea was also discussed to allow thorough research into these issues. To hear different viewpoints and to make progress, Ben feels that more people that are interested are needed on this committee.

Linda Leotsakos announced that the Board of Assessors will be meeting on Friday, November 11, 2011 at 8:30am at the Chelsea Town Office. They will be reviewing abatement applications and corrected abatements. Appointments will be set up for each landowner.

November 20, 2011 at the Chelsea Senior Hall there will be a show "Heart and Soul" that is free of charge (donations would be graciously accepted) and will collect needed hygiene items for the Chelsea Food Bank.

Monday, November 14, 2011 the Chelsea Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner will be at the Chelsea Senior Hall on Windsor Rd.

Executive Session: None.

The next Chelsea Board of Selectmen Meeting will be on November 30, 2011 at 6:30PM in the Chelsea Elementary School Cafeteria.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn by Ben Smith that was seconded by Mike Pushard. Vote was unanimous. Linda Leotsakas declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Approved by the Chelsea Board of Selectmen on November 30, 2011.

Linda Leotsakos – Chair

Michael Pushard

Benjamin Smith